

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03684 260716Z

17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 CU-05 EB-11 NIC-01 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 251605Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, NL

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S COMMENTS
ON NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT

1. FONMIN VAN DER STOEL SAID IN RADIO INTERVIEW JULY 24

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PAGE 02 THE HA 03684 260716Z

THAT NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT CONTAINED "HOPEFUL SIGNS" FOR

RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THAT COUNTRY. HOWEVER, HE STRUCK CAUTIOUS NOTE BY ADDING "THERE STILL ARE, OF COURSE, COUNTER FORCES IN GREECE". HE OBSERVED THAT GREECE'S NEW PREMIER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS HAD BEEN STAUCH OPPONENT OF MILITARY JUNTA IN ATHENS FOR YEARS AND SAID HE KNEW FONMIN GEORGE MAVROS PERSONALLY, ADDING: "I KNOW HIM AS A MAN OF OUTSPOKEN DEMOCRATIC CONVICTIONS". FONMIN VAN DER STOEL FURTHER NOTED THAT EDUCATION MINISTER NICHOLAS LOROS HAD MADE HIMSELF VERY POPULAR AMONG GREEK STUDENTS BECAUSE OF THE COURAGEOUS STAND HE HAD ADOPTED ON OPPRESSION OF STUDENTS BY THE JUNTA.

2. IF GREECE TOOK ROAD TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION IT "DESERVES OUR ACTIVE SUPPORT", HE SAID WHEN ASKED IF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WOULD HELP GREECE IN SAME WAY AS COMMUNITY WANTS TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL. "OF COURSE WE MUST FIRST AWAIT THE PROGRAMME OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS AROUND NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS", HE ADDED.

3. FONMIN FURTHER SAID THAT PRESSURES EXERTED ON GREECE FROM WITHOUT -- "IN ADDITION TO THAT FROM WITHIN" --- HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN OF IMPORTANCE IN BRINGING ABOUT NEW SITUATION IN GREECE. "I HAVE TIME AND AGAIN POINTED OUT IN ALL SORTS OF TALKS -- FOR INSTANCE WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER -- THE DISASTROUS ASPECTS WHICH CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING SITUATION IN GREECE WOULD HAVE", HE SAID, ADDING: "IT IS THEREFORE AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF SATISFACTION TO ME THAT DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE WHICH OFFER BETTER PERSPECTIVES". FONMIN VAN DER STOEL SAID HE HAD HAD IMPRESSION FOR SOME TIME THAT CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN GREECE HAD ALSO BEEN GROWING ON AMERICAN SIDE.

4. COMMENT: DURING CHANGE ENCOUNTER JULY 25, DIRECTOR GENERAL, POLITICAL AFFAIRS VAN LYNDEN TOLD POLCOUNS THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL COULD NOT BE MORE RELIEVED AND SATISFIED WITH EVENTS WHICH HAVE NOW OCCURRED IN GREECE, AFTER THE MANY YEARS OF EFFORT WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY EXPENDED IN TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A TURN-AROUND OF THE REGIME THERE.

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PAGE 03 THE HA 03684 260716Z

TANGUY

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